



## CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** November 1, 2013

**To:** Thomas Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Constance Stancil, Director, Neighborhood Improvement Services  
**Subject:** HUD Fair Housing Contract for FY 2013-2014

### Executive Summary

The Human Relations Division of the Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Department enforces local, state and federal laws, ordinances, policies, procedures, and regulations dealing with discrimination in fair housing. Specifically, Division staff processes formal and informal fair housing discrimination complaints, conducts fair housing outreach, provides training and sponsors fair housing events.

The purpose of this proposed Council action is to adopt a project ordinance for funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for FY 2013-14. The HUD fair housing grant will be utilized by the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department for administrative costs, community outreach, fair housing education and training, staff development, computer and other equipment acquisition and travel.

### Recommendation

The Neighborhood Improvement Services Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the City of Durham North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funds by executing the grant documents and adopting the City of Durham Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$76,160.

### Background

A renewable contract was developed and agreed to by the Durham Human Relations Department/Commission and HUD beginning in 1995. This contract resulted from City Council action requesting legislative approval of an enhanced local anti-discrimination fair housing ordinance, making Durham's ordinance substantially equivalent to federal fair housing law.

The Durham Human Relations Department has been certified as substantially equivalent every five years since receiving the first contract in 1995. The most recent agency certification was received on March 19, 2010. Since the Human Relations Division staff has merged with the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, the functions relating to the grant are carried out under the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department. Consequently, the department is eligible to receive funding through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) for FY 2013-14. The funding will be used for administrative

costs, community outreach, fair housing education and training, staff development, computer and other equipment acquisition and business related travel.

### **Issues and Analysis**

Once approved, these funds will allow us to maintain our work in the area of housing compliance and to maintain our ability to perform community outreach efforts, and more effectively protect the citizens of Durham from housing discrimination. The Human Relations Staff processed a total of 29 formal cases of housing discrimination from July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013 and received the following funding:

• Case Processing:	\$ 63,660
• Training:	\$ 6,500
• Administrative Cost (AC):	\$ <u>6,000</u>
<b>Total Contract Amount</b>	<b>\$ 76,160</b>

### **Alternatives**

This alternative is not recommended because there would be inadequate funds for the Department to spend in carrying out fair housing activities throughout the City.

### **Financial Impact**

This grant will be used to support work in the area of Fair Housing. The HUD Cooperative Grant Funding specifically will be used for the following activities:

- Administrative costs associated with fair housing
- Training for fair housing administration and enforcement
- Education and outreach activities and materials
- FHAP agency partnership activities
- Salaries for fair housing staff that are not covered in the general fund

### **SDBE Summary**

This is a grant project ordinance from HUD promoting fair housing and equality of services and therefore not required to be reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

### **Attachments**

HUD Grant Project Ordinance  
HUD Assistance Award Contract